

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 18, 2006 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W125 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas V. Hatch, Senate Chair
Rep. Roger E. Barrus, House Chair
Sen. Parley G. Hellewell
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Richard W. Wheeler
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Beverly Ann Evans
Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. David Ure

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. Emily Brown, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Barrus called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Rep. Duckworth was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Noel moved to approve the minutes of the September 8 Agricultural Political Action Committee site visit and the September 20, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Dayton and Rep. Wheeler were absent for the vote.

Rep. Holdaway briefly discussed the Jordan River Parkway and stated he would like to secure funding at the state level to assist with trail development.

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to place discussion of the Jordan River Parkway on the November agenda.

Chair Barrus turned the chair over to Sen. Hatch.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Barrus moved to approve discussion of the Jordan River Parkway pending a review of previously scheduled agenda items. Staff was directed to draft a letter to the Legislative Management Committee requesting permission to discuss the issue. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hellewell, Rep. Dayton, and Rep. Wheeler were absent for the vote.

Chair Hatch turn the chair over to Rep. Barrus.

2. State Energy Policy Report

Dr. Laura Nelson, Energy Policy Advisor, Governor's Office, distributed "2006 Energy Advisor Report to the Utah Legislature: Energy Policy and Development in Utah." She reviewed the report and recommended removing barriers to energy efficiency, supporting energy efficiency programs through energy budgets, developing transportation energy efficiency policies, and developing state energy

efficiency goals. Dr. Nelson also discussed issues and recommendations relating to electric transmission, natural gas and petroleum transportation pipelines, oil and natural gas, coal, oil shale and tar sands, and nuclear power.

Sen. Hatch requested that any recommendations of the Committee be coordinated with the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee.

3. Electronic Waste

Sen. Scott McCoy stated that rapidly developing technology has caused a tremendous increase in electronic waste. He stressed that if these materials are not disposed of properly, it can pose an environmental hazard.

Mr. Brad Mertz, Recycling Coalition of Utah and Mr. Eric Anderson, Guaranteed Recycling Experts, addressed the Committee. Mr. Mertz distributed "Utah E-waste Considerations." He stated 1-2 percent of municipal solid waste is electronic waste. TVs and computers can contain an average of 4-8 pounds of lead as well as other potential toxins. He indicated the Recycling Coalition of Utah established a steering committee to study the issue. He reviewed the recommendations of the steering committee.

Mr. Rusty Lundberg, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, distributed "Overview of State Electronic Waste Recycling Programs." He pointed out that four states have developed electronics reuse and recycling programs. He discussed how these states have addressed key elements surrounding this issue and reviewed the efforts that have been taken both nationally and internationally.

Sen. McCoy discussed the model legislation from the Council of State Governments which was included in the mailing packet. He noted the legislation encourages the design of electronic devices and components that are less toxic and more recyclable. It also promotes the development of a statewide infrastructure for collection and recycling of end-of-life electronics.

Mr. Douglas Smith, Sony Electronics, distributed and reviewed "Position Statement - Electronics Manufacturers Coalition for Responsible Recycling - E Waste Recycling." He pointed out that the difficulty is not in setting up recycling and collection systems, it is in finding a reliable solution to pay for collection. He stated that retailers need to be involved in the process.

Mr. Jim Olsen, Utah Retail Merchants Association, said retailers believe a federal solution is preferable and less costly and burdensome than a patchwork of conflicting laws instituted by individual states. He encouraged a voluntary collection initiative to start with, with no mandatory retail take back programs. The retail community is adamantly opposed to any advanced fees that are collected at retail.

4. Other Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Barrus adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.